

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY



2008 SPRING GAME PROGRAM

SPARTAN FOOTBALL

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2008 OUTLOOK

Q&A WITH MICHIGAN STATE HEAD COACH MARK DANTONIO

Q. As spring practice comes to an end, what do you hope carries over into the summer?

COACH DANTONIO: I hope there's excitement. We've got to stay hungry. We have to maintain that attitude that nothing is given to us. We have to earn everything we get.

I think the biggest thing I want to try to do as the head football coach and we as a staff want to do is maintain that hunger for excellence and that drive for excellence, take two steps forward, not one step back. Two steps forward and then take another step. Keep putting the building blocks together, build a foundation.

I think as I look back at last year, and I've said this a number of times, I think there has to be growing pains if you're building a great foundation in anything you're doing. You have to be able to come up and critique what you've done, and our players have to understand that you don't just get there by right. You don't get there without hard work.

As I've said a million times, the differences between the wins and the losses on the football field are very, very small thing. We have to finish the ball games, we have to take the next step, understand those things. To take that next step we had to go through some tough times.

Q. Up front, you lost four experienced players in Pete Clifford, Kenny Shane, Mike Gyetvai and John Masters. Despite those losses, you still have a pretty good nucleus to build around. Talk about retooling the offensive line around Jesse Miller, Roland Martin and Joel Nitchman.

COACH DANTONIO: Jesse Miller is an imposing figure, with a tremendous upside. He's experienced and intelligent, so he's got a bright future.

Roland Martin is big, physical and powerful. He too has a ton of experience.

Jesse and Roland are fifth-year seniors and they both have a tremendous future ahead of them at the next level, but they have to get it done here, especially in terms of providing some leadership.

Joel Nitchman is an overachiever in every respect. He's very intelligent and possesses good quickness. Most importantly, Joel is a gamer. He had very little experience heading into last season, but he stepped in and played very well for us when John Masters wasn't ready to go at the beginning of the season.

Q. Rocco Cironi has had a solid spring. Talk about his development and evaluate the rest of the offensive line.

COACH DANTONIO: Rocco Cironi has really solidified the left tackle position. He's taken some big strides this spring.

Rocco had a tough time last year because he didn't play maybe as much as he had thought, and I think sometimes there are certain players that need to have that ownership of a position, know that other people are depending on them. He's taken that next step, knowing that he needs to be the guy. He's got good athletic ability, so it's his time.

Brendon Moss has been working at right guard. He's very, very athletic player, but he needs to play with more maturity. Brendon is an outstanding athlete. He's big and he can really, really run, so he can be an impact guy there.

Mike Bacon is a wildcard guy because he's versatile enough to play center or guard. He's worked his way into being a scholarship player. Mike is very dependable, very tough, so he'll figure into the playing rotation.

J'Michael Deane has gotten some work behind Cironi at left tackle. He's an outstanding athlete for a big person, and he needs to help. J'Michael is a good student of the game, runs pretty well for a guy his size, so hopefully, he can pay dividends down the line.

With Roland Martin sidelined for most of the spring with an ankle injury, Jared McGaha has really benefitted from the additional reps. Joel Foreman is another guy who need extra work at guard this spring and he got it. They're in shape, they're motivated, and I think they've got a great upside.

Q. Obviously Kellen Davis is going to be an NFL tight end. You look at that position now and the only one that has any playing experience at all is Charlie Gantt. That position has always played such a big role in your offense. How important is it to get some productivity from that group?

COACH DANTONIO: We'll have a great tight end here, and if you look at our past, whether it's Cincinnati or now here, the tight end in our program has played in the NFL. Brent Celek for Cincinnati and Kellen Davis is about to get his chance. We'll find a guy that's suitable for that type of role.

Charlie Gantt has made a lot of progress this spring, but it's his time. He played a little bit last year and he had good bowl practices. It's his third year in the program, the second in our system. He's physical enough; he just needs to take that next step.

We've also got two red-shirt freshmen in Garrett Celek and Dave Duran. They're going to be very good players, but they're young.

Q. Last year, Devin Thomas emerged as a big-time playmaker in the passing game.

Do you plan to spread his 70-plus catches out over three or four guys? Or have you been looking for a go-to player to separate himself?

COACH DANTONIO: It's much the same as it was at this time a year ago. We feature certain guys if they make plays and they instill that attitude in us that he needs to get the ball, we start getting him the ball. That's what happened with Devin Thomas. He had a great year, and we're very excited for him.

But with him leaving, now it comes to a guy like B.J. Cunningham, which midway through the year last year we would have said okay, let's put our best wide receivers out there, he would have been on the field in some capacity. Would he have been a starter, probably not. But would he have been in the rotation somewhat, I think he would have. But he's still a freshman, he's still learning, but B.J. has outstanding ball judgment, leaping ability and hands. He's also displayed the ability to run after the catch.

Chris D. Rucker is going to have an opportunity. We're going to find a place for him to play because he's a good tough athlete with speed.

Mark Dell started for us last year as a true freshman. He's an extremely hard worker, and we look for great things from him. Mark should be our next premier wide receiver.

Deon Curry, David Williams and Carl Grimes also will figure in the playing mix. We've also got a great group of young freshman wide receivers coming in here, which is very exciting. These guys can play a multitude of ways.

Q. Let's talk about quarterback. What impressed you most about Brian Hoyer last year?

COACH DANTONIO: In his first year as the starting quarterback, Brian Hoyer was very confident, displayed good vision, had very good retention and was very coachable. He learned an awful lot as Drew Stanton's understudy and transferred that onto the field last fall. I thought he had a very productive year. Take away the bowl game and Brian had an outstanding year with limited turnovers.

Now, the jump that Brian has to make is closing the game. I believe that that is where you separate the John Elways, Joe Montanas and Brett Favres from the rest of the quarterbacks. Those are the guys that get it done at the end of the game. I think its being in that situation and being comfortable with that role, and I think that when you're doing this for the first time, there's going to be some games where you're able to and some games where you maybe don't. That doesn't mean the ball is going to get caught, but you're going to do your part to get that done.

Q. This spring, you placed an emphasis on developing depth behind Brian Hoyer.

Have you been pleased with development of your young quarterbacks, Nick Foles and Kirk Cousins?

COACH DANTONIO: Both Kirk Cousins and Nick Foles have worked extremely hard this spring. Both of those guys have improved a great deal since last fall. We've gone live in every practice, they're getting tested every day. They've seen a lot of different pressures and a lot of different coverage concepts. We've create as many game-like situations as we can in every practice. We've taken the coaches off the field, so we can evaluate their ability to run the entire operation. We've looked for consistency from our back-up quarterbacks, and we've looked for them to execute without mistakes.

Kirk has added almost 20 pounds to his frame while Nick has resculpted his body and is up to 243 pounds. They're both so much more comfortable in the offense because they've been able to go through the reinstallation process.

Kirk is an extremely hard worker, who studies the game and pays great attention to detail. He's got good mobility, good control at the line of scrimmage and a very good arm.

Nick is a big, raw athlete. He has a strong arm and with his height, he has great vision down the field.

It's been exciting to watch those guys compete this spring. They both have tremendous upside.

Q. At fullback, you've got a couple experienced guys back in Andrew Hawken and Jeff McPherson.

COACH DANTONIO: The fullback position didn't exist on this roster when we came here, and we made Andrew Hawken and Jeff McPherson into players. Both of these guys are tough, physical blockers. They both catch the ball well out of the backfield. Both of them add a little different dimension to the offense. Andrew has shown the ability to run the football, but we're not ready to give the ball to McPherson a lot yet. Most importantly, they're both great team players and fill a needed role here, especially with our different personnel groupings. Josh Rouse moved from linebacker to fullback late this spring, and he certainly could be a third option at this position.

Q. Obviously, Javon Ringer was held out of contact drills this spring, but talk about his development and the fact that he has really made himself a complete running back and one of the elite players at his position in the country.

COACH DANTONIO: First, Javon Ringer is a great leader because of his great work ethic and he's completely team-oriented. He was the hardest worker in our winter conditioning program and he's the hardest worker in the weight room.

Javon is one of the most explosive athletes that I have ever been around. He has remarkable acceleration and tremendous vision. He's also one of the toughest players on the field.

He's a completely selfless person. He wants to do so much for other people. Javon epitomizes everything that's great about college football. He's a genuinely good person, and I just can't say enough about him.

Q. Jehuu Caulcrick was a great goal-line back last year. I know you're confident, too, in Javon near the goal line, but you've got some other young, talented running backs. Is running back going to remain a position of strength and depth?

COACH DANTONIO: I think it continues to be a position of strength for us. We lose one guy, Jehuu Caulcrick.

A.J. Jimmerson has really made himself into a more rounded running back. Our two red-shirt freshmen, Andre Anderson and Ashton Leggett, have shown flashes of brilliance. They've both displayed some explosiveness.

Our system supports two backs getting 200-plus carries. It could conceivably support three backs getting 150 carries apiece. However we do it, I think we have that dimension. When you look at our offense last year, you basically had 470 carries by our tailback position. So we can support two running backs, and as a matter of fact, I think it has to, two or three.

Q. As you look at the defensive line, you lost a couple of play-making ends, in Ervin Baldwin and Jonal Saint-Dic, and Ogemdi Nwagbuo. Talk about this returning group. There is some experience there with Justin Kershaw. Antonio Jeremiah and Oren Wilson played some as freshmen last year, but is this the biggest challenge on the defensive side of the ball?

COACH DANTONIO: We lost three players on the defensive line, three pretty good players. They're all going to have the opportunity to play in the pros. Now, I think we pick up a returning starter in Trevor Anderson because he has not only played at the Division I level in the Big East, but he's also been in our system.

Trevor is extremely strong and explosive. He'll certainly set the foundation for our defensive ends.

The other defensive end right now is Brandon Long, who played a lot this year. He's going into his senior year, and it could be his best year ever.

Tyler Hoover is a freshman that we look for great things from next fall. He's still learning the system, but he's very intuitive. Tyler has good football intelligence. He's big, strong guy that will make his presence felt this season.

Inside, we lose O.G. but we've got everybody else back. As you know, O.G. was sidelined with a broken hand for about five of the games last season. Justin is back at defensive tackle. He now weighs nearly 280 pounds, so he's added about 20 pounds. Justin is extremely quick, and he has great leadership qualities.

Antonio Jeremiah and Oren Wilson played as true freshmen last year and showed some toughness. Antonio might be the surprise player of the spring. He's done a great job on managing his weight. He's now in the 300-pound neighborhood, so he's lost over 20 pounds. Antonio is great athlete, who is so strong at the point of attack. outstanding athlete.

And then you've got Ryan Wheat, who will be an excellent football player. He's another 300-pounder with good lateral quickness that can play with power. But he has to continue to learn and mature, and that's a process.

Q. You lose three linebackers (Kaleb Thornhill, SirDarean Adams and Rob Tabatchnick), but you return a bunch of guys who played a lot last year.

COACH DANTONIO: We played eight linebackers last year, so we got five of them back. That was by necessity at times.

Greg Jones played himself into a starting position during the second half of the season. Greg is a big-play guy, who plays with a tremendous amount of effort. He's an instinctive player, who seeks contact. Greg comes to the field every day with a willingness to work. He's going to be an outstanding player for us for the next three years.

Eric Gordon is another explosive player, who has really matured.

Brandon Denson is a little undersized, but he's has emerged as a playmaker. He can run and he likes the contact.

There's some quality depth here at linebacker as well. Adam Decker is finally healthy and playing with some consistency. Jon Misch logged a lot of minutes last season, and Ryan Allison is sort of a wildcard here. A former wide receiver, we took a look at Ryan as a safety during bowl practice, but he's got a real possibility to contribute here because of his athletic ability and size. And Josh Rouse is another proven commodity at linebacker, who has been getting reps at fullback.

Q. In the secondary, you again lose some experience at the safety spot, but you've got Otis Wiley back who played a lot and Roderick Jenrette played a lot until he got hurt. At the cornerback spot, you've got a ton of guys who have played.

COACH DANTONIO: Yeah, we played nine guys in the secondary last year, and we return seven of them. So I think we're very, very functional in there.

Otis Wiley has been extremely productive this spring. You see him making a ton of plays, but most importantly, he's really taken command of the entire defense. Otis is playing with sound technique, and he's paying great attention to detail.

Two other safeties have been playing pretty well. Roderick Jenrette has displayed some playmaking ability, and Danny Fortener has had a solid spring.

At the corner positions, we've got four guys with starting experience: Chris L. Rucker, Ashton Henderson, Kendell Davis-Clark and Ross Weaver.

Q. You return some valuable weapons in the kicking game as well with Brett Swenson, Aaron Bates and Todd Boleski.

COACH DANTONIO: Brett Swenson has made some pressure kicks during his career, but we're looking for more consistency and improved accuracy in the field-goal department.

As a true freshman, Aaron Bates had a solid year punting the football. He really improved his consistency and ball placement during the second half of the season.

Todd Boleski has a powerful leg. On kickoffs, he just needs to consistently put the ball on the goal line.



AUG. 30	at CALIFORNIA
SEPT. 6	EASTERN MICHIGAN
SEPT. 13	FLORIDA ATLANTIC
SEPT. 20	NOTRE DAME
SEPT. 27	at INDIANA
OCT. 4	IOWA (HOMECOMING)
OCT. 11	at NORTHWESTERN
OCT. 18	OHIO STATE
OCT. 25	at MICHIGAN
NOV. 1	WISCONSIN
NOV. 8	PURDUE
NOV. 22	at PENN STATE



Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown (Previous School)
Johnny Adams	CB	5-11	170	Akron, Ohio (Buchtel High School)
Charles Burrell	S	6-1 1/2	207	Detroit, Mich. (Southeastern High School)
John Deyo	OL	6-6	265	Battle Creek, Mich. (Gull Lake High School)
Steve Gardiner	LB	6-1	210	Dublin, Ohio (Coffman High School)
Tyler Hoover	DE	6-7	275	Novi, Mich. (Novi High School)
Zach Hueter	OL	6-7	295	Columbiaville, Mich. (North Branch High School)
Cameron Jude	DL	6-3	235	Chesterfield, Va. (Manchester High School)
Keshawn Martin	ATH	6-0	185	Inkster, Mich. (John Glenn High School)
Chris McDonald	TE/DE	6-5	271	Sterling Heights, Mich. (Henry Ford II High School)
Caulton Ray	RB	5-9	197	Southfield, Mich. (Brother Rice High School)
Trenton Robinson	CB	5-10	180	Bay City, Mich. (Bay City Central High School)
David Rolf	LB	6-3	225	Piqua, Ohio (Piqua High School)
Ethan Ruhland	OL	6-6	270	Lake Orion, Mich. (Lake Orion High School)
Fred Smith	WR	6-2	207	Detroit, Mich. (Southeastern High School)
Drew Stevens	ATH	6-4	220	Delaware, Ohio (Olentangy High School)
Brynden Trawick	S	6-3	218	Marietta, Ga. (Sprayberry High School)
Myles White	WR	6-1	160	Livonia, Mich. (Stevenson High School)
Jamihr Williams	LB	6-3	230	Lima, Ohio (Trotwood-Madison High School)
Glenn Winston	RB	6-1 1/2	215	Detroit, Mich. (Denby Tech)
Anthony Woods	OL	6-3	305	Melvindale, Mich. (Melvindale High School)
Jerel Worthly	DT	6-3	290	Huber Heights, Ohio (Wayne High School)



RETURNING STARTERS

AARON BATES (P, 6-0, 190, So., 1L) 2007 SEASON: Earned honorable mention Freshman All-America recognition from The Sporting News after averaging 39.7 yards on 69 punts, including 23 kicks downed inside the opponent's 20-yard line . . . had at least one punt downed inside the opponent's 20 in 11 of the 12 regular-season games . . . also hit seven punts 50 or more yards . . . averaged 40.2 yards on 39 punts over the last six games, including 11 placed inside the opponent's 20 . . . averaged 42.0 yards on six punts vs. No. 14 Boston College in the Champs Sports Bowl . . . averaged 39.8 yards on five punts vs. Penn State, including three kicks downed inside the Nittany Lion 20 . . . averaged 41.7 yards on a season-high nine punts against Michigan and pinned the Wolverines inside the 20-yard line four times . . . his season-long 67-yarder was downed at the Michigan 6 in the second quarter.

DEON CURRY (WR, 6-1, 208, Sr-5, 3L) 2007 SEASON: Saw action in all 13 games, including 10 starting assignments (six starts at split end) . . . ranked fourth on the team in receptions with 24 for 200 yards (8.3 avg.) . . . scored his first collegiate touchdown on a 14-yard grab from Brian Hoyer against No. 14 Boston College (2007 Champs Sports Bowl) as the Spartans pulled to within three at 24-21 with 6:04 left in the game . . . had four catches each at Ohio State (24 yards) and vs. Michigan (21) . . . also caught four passes for a career-high 45 yards at No. 9 Wisconsin.

KENDELL DAVIS-CLARK (CB, 5-11, 204, Sr., 2L) 2007 SEASON: Appeared in all 13 games, including 11 starts at boundary corner . . . ranked second on the team in tackles with 72 (44 solos, 28 assists) . . . his 32 tackles on passing plays led the team . . . recorded 5.5 tackles for losses (35 yards), including four sacks (33) . . . led the team in pass break-ups with eight . . . produced nine tackles at top-ranked Ohio State, including one that resulted in a 1-yard loss . . . collected a team-best nine tackles, including an 8-yard sack, and pass break-up vs. Indiana . . . registered a career-high 12 tackles and a pass break-up vs. Bowling Green while compiling 20 production points . . . CAREER HIGHLIGHTS: Two-year letterman has appeared in 25 career games, including 14 starting assignments . . . has been credited with 111 career tackles, including 74 solos.

MARK DELL (WR, 6-2, 185, So., 1L) 2007 SEASON: Appeared in all 13 games as a true freshman, including eight starts (seven at split end) . . . finished fifth on the team in receptions with 20 for 220 yards (11.0 avg.) and two touchdowns . . . had two catches for a season-high 36 yards at Purdue . . . caught three passes for 27 yards at No. 9 Wisconsin, including a 3-yard TD grab from Hoyer early in the fourth quarter as MSU pulled to within 34-31 . . . scored his first collegiate TD on a 16-yard reception from Hoyer in the third quarter at Notre Dame as the Spartans built a 24-14 lead . . . had three catches for 27 yards vs. Bowling Green.

ERIC GORDON (LB, 6-0, 220, So., 1L) 2007 SEASON: Named to the Big Ten All-Freshman Team by The Sporting News . . . saw action in 12 of 13 games, including 10 starts at WILL linebacker . . . sat out the Indiana game with a shoulder injury . . . ranked fourth on the team in production points (154) and fifth in tackles (62) . . . produced 7.5 tackles for losses (22 yards) and two pass break-ups . . . compiled a season-best 24 production points vs. Boston College in the Champs Sports Bowl, recording five solo tackles and his first career interception (16-yard return) . . . registered a season-high 10 tackles at Iowa, including one for a 3-yard loss . . . tallied seven stops vs. Northwestern, including one for a 3-yard loss . . . made a team-best eight stops vs. Pittsburgh, including one for a 1-yard loss . . . recorded six tackles in his collegiate debut vs. UAB, including five solo hits with one resulting in a 3-yard loss.

BRIAN HOYER (QB, 6-3, 212, Sr-5, 3L) 2007 SEASON: Honorable mention All-Big Ten selection by the media in 2007 . . . ranked among the Big Ten leaders in passing efficiency (fifth with his 131.9 rating), passing yards (fifth at 209.62 ypg.) and total offense (seventh at 201.5 ypg.) . . . completed 223-of-376 throws (.593) for 2,725 yards, 20 touchdowns and 11 interceptions . . . his 223 completions (third), 376 pass attempts (second), 2,725 passing yards (third) and 20 TD passes (tied for fourth) all rank among the top single-season totals in Spartan history . . . recorded six 200-yard passing games last season . . . CAREER HIGHLIGHTS: Already ranks among MSU's career leaders in TD passes (No. 7 with 26), pass completions (No. 8 at 320), pass attempts (No. 9 at 543), completion percentage (No. 9 at .589) and passing efficiency rating (No. 10 at 127.7) . . . has compiled a 7-7 record in 14 career starts.

GREG JONES (LB, 6-1, 222, So., 1L) 2007 SEASON: Named first-team Freshman All-American by the Football Writers Association of America, The Sporting News, CollegeFootballNews.com, Rivals.com and Scout.com . . . led the team with 78 tackles in 2007, becoming the first true freshman to lead the Spartans in tackles since Dan Bass made 111 stops in 1976 . . . also ranked first among Big Ten freshmen with 78 stops, including 40 solos and 38 assists . . . ranked third on the team in sacks (4.5 for 25 yards) and fourth in tackles for loss (8.5 for 33) . . . appeared in all 13 games, including seven starts at SAM linebacker . . . averaged 7.3 tackles per game as a starter . . . also averaged a team-leading 6.5 tackles per game in Big Ten play . . . recorded double-figure tackles in back-to-back games against top-ranked Ohio State (season-high 14 stops) and Iowa (11).

JUSTIN KERSHAW (DT, 6-5, 278, Sr-5, 3L) 2007 SEASON: Started all 13 games at defensive tackle . . . set career highs for tackles (34), tackles for loss (5 for 9 yards) and sacks (1.5 for 4) . . . finished seventh on the defense with a career-best 101 production points . . . posted four tackles vs. Boston College in the Champs Sports Bowl, including three solos . . . also made four stops vs. Penn State in the home finale . . . matched his career high with five tackles at No. 9 Wisconsin . . . registered four stops at Notre Dame, including a 2-yard sack . . . recorded a career-high five tackles, including one for a 3-yard loss, and recovered a fumble vs. Bowling Green . . . CAREER HIGHLIGHTS: Three-year letterman has appeared in 36 career games, including 21 starting assignments (13 at defensive tackle and eight more at defensive end) . . . has produced 64 career tackles, including eight for losses (17) and 2.5 sacks (9).

ROLAND MARTIN (OG, 6-5, 325, Sr-5, 3L) 2007 SEASON: Saw action in 11 games, including 10 starts at right guard . . . left the Pittsburgh game in the second quarter with an ankle injury and sat out the next two games (Notre Dame and Wisconsin), ending a streak of 15 consecutive starts . . . key figure on an offensive line that helped MSU rank among the Big Ten leaders in scoring offense (second at 33.1 points per game), rushing offense (third at 198.2 yards per game) and total offense (fourth at 416.8 ypg.) . . . ranked fourth on the team in pancake blocks with 18 . . . started out the season with a bang, grading out as a winner in each of the first three games, before being sidelined with the ankle injury . . . recorded a season-best five pancakes in the season opener vs. UAB as the Spartans produced 593 total yards . . . CAREER HIGHLIGHTS: Three-year letterman has appeared in 30 career games, including 22 starting assignments (all at right guard) . . . has recorded 60 career pancakes.

JESSE MILLER (OT, 6-6, 320, Sr-5, 3L) 2007 SEASON: Started all 13 games at right tackle . . . valuable member of an offensive line that helped the Spartans rank among the Big Ten leaders in scoring offense (second at 33.1 points per game), rushing offense (third at 198.2 yards per game) and total offense (fourth at 416.8 ypg.) . . . finished third on the team in pancake blocks with 20 . . . produced a season-high four pancakes vs. Pittsburgh . . . CAREER HIGHLIGHTS: Three-year letterman ranks as the team's most experienced offensive lineman, with 25 (consecutive) career starts to his credit . . . has registered 57 career pancakes.

JOEL NITCHMAN (C, 6-3, 300, Jr., 1L) 2007 SEASON: Appeared in 10 games, including eight starting assignments (seven starts at center) . . . suffered a knee injury on MSU's fifth offensive play vs. Northwestern and missed the next three games (Indiana, Ohio State and Iowa) . . . graded out as a winner in four of his first five starts . . . returned to the lineup vs. Michigan, starting as a sixth offensive lineman . . . anchored an offensive line that helped the Spartans rank among the Big Ten leaders in scoring offense (second at 33.1 points per game), rushing offense (third at 198.2 yards per game) and total offense (fourth at 416.8 ypg.) . . . recorded a career-best three pancake blocks at No. 9 Wisconsin as the Spartans rolled up 564 total yards . . . earned his first collegiate start in the season opener vs. UAB as MSU amassed 593 total yards.

JAVON RINGER (RB, 5-9, 200, Sr., 3L) 2007 SEASON: Second-team All-Big Ten selection by the coaches and media in 2007 . . . earned team MVP honors after becoming Michigan State's first 1,000-yard rusher since T.J. Duckett (1,420 yards) in 2001 . . . ranked among the Big Ten leaders in rushing (No. 4 at 111.3 yards per game) and all-purpose yards (No. 5 at 134.0 ypg.) . . . also is listed among the NCAA leaders in both statistical categories: No. 20 in rushing and No. 48 in all-purpose yards . . . led the Spartans in rushing with 1,447 yards (245 carries for 5.9 avg.) — the fifth-best single-season total in school history . . . became the first running back to lead the Spartans in rushing for three-straight seasons since Sedrick Irvin (1996-98) . . . finished third in rushing in Big Ten games, averaging 118.4 yards per game . . . averaged an impressive 6.6 yards per carry (143 rushes for 947 yards) in conference games . . . also ranked second on the team in receptions (35 for 295 yards) and all-purpose yards (1,742) . . . recorded his seventh 100-yard rushing game of the season and 12th of his career, gaining 101 yards on 21 carries against No. 14 Boston College in the Champs Sports Bowl . . . rushed for a career-best 203 yards and two scores in MSU's 52-27 Homecoming victory over Indiana . . . posted four straight 100-yard rushing games during one stretch last season — the longest streak by a Spartan running back since Blake Ezor hit the century mark in five consecutive games in 1989 . . . CAREER HIGHLIGHTS: Ranks seventh on MSU's all-time rushing list with 2,761 career yards (453 carries) . . . his 6.09 yards per carry ranks as the fourth-highest rushing average in school history.

CHRIS L. RUCKER (CB, 6-2, 194, So., 1L) 2007 SEASON: Saw action in eight games as a true freshman, including four starts at field corner . . . sidelined for the last five games of the regular season after undergoing eye surgery to repair two detached retinas . . . recorded 24 tackles, including 15 solos and nine assists . . . matched his season-high with six tackles vs. Northwestern, including five solos . . . produced a season-best six tackles in his first collegiate start vs. Pittsburgh . . . intercepted a pass in his collegiate debut vs. UAB that set up a second-quarter field goal.

BRETT SWENSON (K, 5-8, 160, Jr., 2L) 2007 SEASON: His 98 points ranked second on the team, trailing only Jehu Caulcrick who scored a school-record 21 rushing touchdowns . . . made 53-of-54 extra-point and 15-of-22 field-goal attempts . . . his 53 PATs set a Spartan single-season record, breaking the mark previously held by Morten Andersen (52 made in 1978) . . . his 15 made field goals are tied for the ninth-best single-season total in MSU history . . . finished among the Big Ten leaders in kick scoring (sixth at 7.5 points per game), field goals (seventh at 1.15 made per game), field-goal percentage (seventh at .682), overall scoring (10th) . . . came on strong during the second half of the season, converting eight of his last 10 field-goal attempts . . . accounted for 11 points in MSU's 48-31 victory at Purdue, connecting on 2-of-3 field-goal attempts and all five PATs . . . made 2-of-3 field-goal attempts at Iowa, matching his career-long with a 46-yarder in the second quarter and his clutch 29-yarder with four seconds left sent the game into overtime tied at 20 . . . scored 10 points in the Spartans' 52-27 Homecoming victory over Indiana, converting all seven PATs and a 23-yard field goal . . . produced 10 points at No. 9 Wisconsin, hitting 2-of-3 field-goal attempts and all four PATs . . . scored a career-high 13 points vs. UAB, connecting on 2-of-2 field-goal attempts and all seven PATs . . . CAREER HIGHLIGHTS: Already ranks among MSU's all-time leaders in extra points (seventh with 86 made) and field goals (eighth with 30 made) . . . needs 28 points in 2008 to crack MSU's Top 10 in career scoring.

ROSS WEAVER (CB, 6-1, 203, Jr., 2L) 2007 SEASON: Appeared in eight games, including five starts at field corner . . . sidelined for five games with a foot injury (DNP vs. Pittsburgh, Notre Dame, Wisconsin, Northwestern and Indiana) . . . credited with 19 tackles, including 13 solos and six assists . . . recorded three solo stops, including one for a 1-yard loss, and a pass break-up vs. No. 14 Boston College in the Champs Sports Bowl . . . returned to the starting lineup in Week 11 at Purdue and posted three solo hits . . . accounted for a career-best five tackles vs. Bowling Green, including four solos . . . made two solo tackles in this first collegiate start vs. UAB.

OTIS WILEY (S, 6-2, 210, Sr., 3L) 2007 SEASON: Saw action in all 13 games, including seven starts at free safety . . . led the team in interceptions (4 for 77 yards) and ranked seventh (tied) in the Big Ten (0.31 per game) . . . finished eighth on the team in tackles with 49, including 30 solos and 19 assists . . . credited with five pass break-ups, including a season-best three deflections vs. Penn State in the home finale . . . produced a team-high seven tackles at Purdue and forced a fumble that Travis Key scooped up and returned 20 yards for a score in the fourth quarter as the Spartans built a 41-24 lead . . . recorded a season-best eight tackles vs. Michigan to go along with an interception . . . scored his first career touchdown on a 54-yard interception return late in the third quarter at top-ranked Ohio State . . . posted six tackles each in back-to-back road games at Notre Dame and Wisconsin . . . accounted for five stops vs. Pittsburgh and his 14-yard interception return set up MSU's first TD . . . his interception vs. Bowling Green led to a second-quarter TD . . . CAREER HIGHLIGHTS: Three-year letterman has played in 35 career games, including 19 starts . . . has recorded 161 career tackles, five interceptions and 15 pass break-ups.

2008 SPRING ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Elig./Cl.	Hometown
2	Matt Haughey	K	5-9	170	Sr./Sr.	Bridgman, MI (Bridgman)
4	Carl Grimes	WR	5-9	183	Sr./Sr.-5	Detroit, MI (St. Martin De Porres)
4	Ed Wagner	P	6-5	242	So./Jr.	Barto, Pa. (The Peddie School)
5	Johnny Adams	CB	5-11	170	Fr./Fr.	Akron, OH (Buchtel)
6	Mark Dell	WR	6-2	185	So./So.	Farmington Hills, MI (Harrison)
7	Brian Hoyer	QB	6-3	212	Sr./Sr.-5	North Olmsted, OH (St. Ignatius)
8	Kirk Cousins	QB	6-3	197	Fr./So.	Holland, MI (Holland Christian)
9	Jeremy Ware	CB	5-10	187	Jr./Sr.	Fort Myers, FL (South Carolina)
10	Connor Dixon*	QB	6-4	197	So./Jr.	South Park, PA (South Park)
11	Marcus Hyde	S	6-0	206	So./Jr.	Fostoria, OH (Fostoria)
11	Danny Knibbs	WR	5-11	186	Fr./So.	Chicago, Ill. (Mount Carmel)
13	Brad Sonntag	WR	5-8	178	Fr./So.	Saginaw, MI (Nouvel Catholic Central)
14	Brett Swenson	K	5-8	160	Jr./Jr.	Pompano Beach, FL (St. Thomas Aquinas)
15	Todd Boleski	K	6-6	212	Sr. Sr.-5	Dearborn Heights, MI (Divine Child)
16	Chris D. Rucker	WR	5-10	172	Fr./So.	Detroit, MI (Detroit Country Day)
17	Nick Foles	QB	6-5	243	Fr./So.	Austin, TX (Westlake)
18	Aaron Bates	P	6-0	190	So./So.	New Concord, OH (John Glenn)
19	David Williams	WR	5-9	176	So./Jr.	Monroeville, PA (Gateway)
20	A.J. Jimmerson	RB	5-10	202	Jr./Sr.	St. Louis, MO (Hazelwood Central)
21	Otis Wiley	S	6-2	210	Sr./Sr.	Flint, MI (Carman-Ainsworth)
22	Enrique Shaw	S	6-1	188	So./Jr.	Lexington, KY (Lafayette)
23	Javon Ringer	RB	5-9	200	Sr./Sr.	Dayton, OH (Chaminade-Julienne)
25	Blair White	WR	6-2	202	Jr./Sr.	Saginaw, MI (Nouvel Catholic Central)
26	Jesse Johnson	S	5-10	185	So./Jr.	Durand, MI (Durand Area)
28	Andre Anderson	RB	5-9	188	Fr./So.	Barrington, IL (Barrington)
28	Mike Bell	CB	5-11	182	Sr./Sr.-5	Shaker Heights, OH (Shaker Heights)
29	Chris L. Rucker	CB	6-2	194	So./So.	Warren, OH (Warren G. Harding)
31	Ashton Henderson	CB	5-11	184	Jr./Jr.	Tallahassee, FL (Lincoln)
32	Ashton Leggett	RB	5-11	232	Fr./So.	Muskegon, MI (Muskegon)
33	Danny Fortener	S	6-1	197	Jr./Sr.	Kettering, OH (Archbishop Alter)
34	Brandon Denson	LB	5-11	216	Jr./Sr.	Willow Run, MI (Willow Run)
35	Jeff McPherson	FB	6-1	245	Sr./Sr.-5	Lowell, MI (Lowell)
35	Marcus Webb	LB	5-11	210	Jr./Sr.	Pontiac, MI (Harper College)
36	Jon Misch	LB	6-2	210	So./Jr.	Waterford, MI (Orchard Lake St. Mary's)
37	Ross Weaver	CB	6-1	203	Jr./Sr.	Southfield, MI (Southfield)
38	Kendell Davis-Clark	CB	5-11	204	Sr./Sr.	Alliance, OH (Alliance)
40	Roderick Jenrette	S	6-1	200	Jr./Jr.	Tampa, FL (Chamberlain)
40	Nick Bendzuck	FB	6-3	247	So./Jr.	Strongsville, OH (Mercyhurst College)
42	Ryan Allison	S	6-3	209	Sr./Sr.	Lake Orion, MI (Lake Orion)
43	Eric Gordon	LB	6-0	220	So./Jr.	Traverse City, MI (Traverse City West)
44	Josh Rouse	FB	6-3	235	Jr./Jr.	Newtown, CT (Valley Forge Military Academy)
45	Andrew Hawken	FB	6-2	238	Jr./Sr.	Wyoming, MI (Grandville)
47	Brandon Long	DE	6-4	240	Sr./Sr.	Canton, OH (GlenOak)
47	Adam Setterbo	FB	6-3	248	Fr./So.	Spring Lake, MI. (Spring Lake Senior)
49	Dwayne Holmes	DE	6-0	283	Sr./Sr.-5	Detroit, MI (Henry Ford)
52	Andrew Pandy	LB	6-1	235	Jr./Sr.	Shelby Township, MI (Utica Eisenhower)
53	Greg Jones	LB	6-1	222	So./So.	Cincinnati, OH (Archbishop Moeller)
55	Adam Decker	LB	6-2	233	Jr./Sr.	Rochester Hills, MI (Brother Rice)
56	Alex Shackleton	SN	6-2	240	So./Jr.	Breckenridge, CO (Summit)
56	Kyle Smith	LB	6-2	232	Sr./Sr.-5	Novi, MI (Detroit Catholic Central)
57	Rocco Cironi	OT	6-6	305	Jr./Sr.	Warren, OH (Warren G. Harding)
57	Jonathon Strayhorn	DE	6-0	240	Fr./So.	Detroit, MI (Oak Park)
58	Trevor Anderson	DE	6-2	255	Jr./Sr.	Detroit, MI (Cincinnati)
59	Ryan Wheat	DL	6-5	310	Fr./So.	Flint, MI (Carman-Ainsworth)
60	Mike Bacon	OL	6-4	298	Sr./Sr.-5	Lansing, MI (Lansing Catholic Central)
61	Arthur Ray Jr.*	OL	6-3	300	Fr./Fr.	Chicago, IL (Mount Carmel)
62	Abre Leggins	OG	6-3	314	So./Jr.	Orlando, FL (Maynard Evans)
64	Brendon Moss	OG	6-6	292	Jr./Sr.	Bay Village, OH (Fork Union Military Academy)
65	Joel Nitchman	C	6-3	300	Jr./Sr.	Kalamazoo, MI (Hackett Catholic Central)
66	John Stipek	OG	6-5	298	Jr./Jr.	Macomb Township, MI (Dakota)
67	Joel Foreman	OG	6-3	299	Fr./So.	Highland, MI (Milford)
68	Michael Jordan	OL	6-5	276	Jr./Jr.	Lansing, MI (Eastern Arizona College)
70	Oren Wilson	NT	6-3	292	So./So.	Teaneck, NJ (Harmony Community)
72	Jason Diehl*	OL	6-3	290	So./Jr.	Wyantskill, NY (Milford Academy)
73	Roland Martin	OG	6-5	325	Sr./Sr.-5	Chicago, IL (Harper)
75	Jared McGaha	OG	6-6	290	Fr./So.	Powell, TN (Powell)
76	Mike Schmeding	OT	6-8	320	Jr./Sr.	Rutherford, NJ (St. Mary's)
77	J'Michael Deane	OT	6-5	291	So./Jr.	Toronto, ON (Newtonbrook Secondary School)
79	Jesse Miller	OT	6-6	320	Sr./Sr.-5	Somerville, NJ (Somerville)
81	David Duran	TE	6-5	241	Fr./So.	Marietta, GA (Kell)
83	Charlie Gantt	TE	6-4	256	So./Jr.	Farmington Hills, MI (Brother Rice)
84	Deon Curry	WR	6-1	208	Sr./Sr.-5	Oakland Township, MI (Detroit Country Day)
84	Todd Anderson	DE	6-2	240	Fr./So.	Jackson, MI (Napoleon)
85	Garrett Celek	TE	6-5	230	Fr./So.	Cincinnati, OH (LaSalle)
86	B.J. Cunningham	WR	6-2	205	Fr./So.	Westerville, OH (Westerville South)
88	Patrick Rigan	TE	6-5	260	So./Jr.	Traverse City, MI (St. Francis)
89	Colin Neely	DE	6-1	249	So./Jr.	Bethlehem, PA (Freedom)
89	Cam Martin	WR	6-3	180	Fr./So.	Tampa, FL (H.B. Plant)
91	Tyler Hoover	DE	6-7	275	Fr./Fr.	Novi, MI (Novi)
93	Antonio Jeremiah	NT	6-5	315	So./So.	Hilliard, OH (Hilliard Darby)
96	Kevin Pickelman	DT	6-3	245	Fr./So.	Marshall, MI (Marshall)
97	Justin Kershaw	DT	6-5	278	Sr./Sr.-5	Columbus, OH (Reynoldsburg)

*: Injured (no contact).

2007 FINAL STATISTICS

2007 FINAL STATISTICS (7-6 overall, 3-5 Big Ten)

RESULTS			
DATE	OPPONENT	SCORE	ATTENDANCE
Sept. 1	UAB	W, 55-18	67,796
Sept. 8	Bowling Green	W, 28-17	67,276
Sept. 15	Pittsburgh	W, 17-13	68,620
Sept. 22	at Notre Dame	W, 31-14	80,795
Sept. 29	at Wisconsin	L, 34-37	82,164
Oct. 6	Northwestern	L, 41-48 (OT)	67,378
Oct. 13	Indiana	W, 52-27	73,449
Oct. 20	at Ohio State	L, 17-24	105,287
Oct. 27	at Iowa	L, 27-34 (2OT)	70,585
Nov. 3	Michigan	L, 24-28	77,009
Nov. 10	at Purdue	W, 48-31	55,630
Nov. 17	Penn State	W, 35-31	72,251
Dec. 28	(1) Boston College	L, 21-24	46,554

(1) Champs Sports Bowl, Orlando, Fla.

SCORE BY QUARTERS							
	1	2	3	4	OT	TOTAL	AVG.
MSU	110	106	100	107	7	430	33.1
Opponents	68	116	70	71	21	346	26.6

TEAM STATISTICS			
	MSU	OPPONENTS	
First Downs	266	235	
By Rushing	125	87	
By Passing	131	128	
By Penalty	10	20	
Total Offense Plays-Yards	973-5418	872-4492	
Yards Per Game	416.8	345.5	
Rushing Att-Yards	580-2576	449-1636	
Yards Per Game	198.2	125.8	
Passing Yards	2842	2856	
Yards Per Game	218.6	219.7	
Att-Comp-Int	393-232-11	423-246-12	
Punting No.-Yds.-Avg.	70-2742-39.2	83-3344-40.3	
Fumbles-Lost	14-7	21-8	
Penalties-Yards	65-629	71-542	
Sacks By-Yards Lost	40-302	30-193	
Third Down Conversions	83-203	66-194	
Third Down Conversion Pct.	.409	.340	
Fourth Down Conversions	11-19	9-17	
Fourth Down Conversion Pct.	.579	.529	
Avg. Time of Possession	31:47	28:13	

TOTAL OFFENSE						
PLAYER	G	PLAYS	RUSH	PASS	TOTAL	AVG.
B. Hoyer	13	423	-105	2725	2620	201.5
J. Ringer	13	245	1447	0	1447	111.3
J. Caulcrick	13	222	872	0	872	67.1
D. Thomas	13	28	177	0	177	13.6
N. Foles	1	8	0	57	57	57.0
A.J. Jimmerson	10	12	51	0	51	5.1
R. Allison	11	2	23	23	46	4.2
K. Davis	13	6	43	0	43	3.3
C. Dixon	1	5	0	37	37	37.0
M. Dell	13	2	24	0	24	1.8
B. Kahn	1	3	20	0	20	20.0
A. Anderson	1	8	16	0	16	16.0
A. Bates	13	1	14	0	14	1.1
A. Hawken	13	2	2	0	2	0.2
Team	13	6	-8	0	-8	-0.6
MSU	13	973	2576	2842	5418	416.8
OPPONENTS	13	872	1636	2856	4492	345.5

PASSING										
PLAYER	G	RTNG	ATT.	CMP.	INT.	PCT.	YDS.	TD	LG	YPG
B. Hoyer	13	131.9	376	223	11	.593	2725	20	80	209.6
N. Foles	1	122.4	8	5	0	.625	57	0	22	57.0
C. Dixon	1	188.2	5	3	0	.600	37	1	28	37.0
R. Allison	11	293.2	1	1	0	1.000	23	0	23	2.1
Team	13	0.0	2	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0.0
D. Thomas	13	0.0	1	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0.0
MSU	13	131.8	393	232	11	.590	2842	21	80	218.6
OPPONENTS	13	126.4	423	246	12	.582	2856	22	78	219.7

RUSHING										
PLAYER	G	ATT.	GAIN	LOSS	NET	AVG.	TD	LG	YPG	
J. Ringer	13	245	1484	37	1447	5.9	6	80	111.3	
J. Caulcrick	13	222	891	19	872	3.9	21	42	67.1	
D. Thomas	13	27	186	9	177	6.6	0	23	13.6	
A.J. Jimmerson	10	12	56	5	51	4.2	0	27	5.1	
K. Davis	13	6	44	1	43	7.2	0	24	3.3	
M. Dell	13	2	24	0	24	12.0	0	17	1.8	
R. Allison	11	1	23	0	23	23.0	0	23	2.1	
B. Kahn	1	3	29	0	20	6.7	0	15	20.0	
A. Anderson	1	8	27	11	16	2.0	1	23	16.0	
A. Bates	13	1	14	0	14	14.0	0	14	1.1	
A. Hawken	13	2	4	2	2	1.0	0	4	0.2	
Team	13	4	0	8	-8	-2.0	0	0	-0.6	
B. Hoyer	13	47	94	199	-105	-2.2	1	23	-8.1	
MSU	13	580	2867	291	2576	4.4	29	80	198.2	
OPPONENTS	13	449	2101	465	1636	3.6	19	64	125.8	

RECEIVING							
PLAYER	G	NO.	YDS.	AVG.	TD	LG	YPG
D. Thomas	13	79	1260	15.9	8	80	96.9
J. Ringer	13	35	295	8.4	0	28	22.7
K. Davis	13	32	513	16.0	6	32	39.5
D. Curry	13	24	200	8.3	1	18	15.4
M. Dell	13	20	220	11.0	2	25	16.9
A. Hawken	13	10	81	8.1	1	21	6.2
T. Love	12	9	84	9.3	0	20	7.0
E. Andino	13	5	44	8.8	2	19	3.4
J. Caulcrick	13	5	36	7.2	0	17	2.8
J. McPherson	12	4	43	10.8	1	22	3.6
B. White	10	3	25	8.3	0	13	2.5
A.J. Jimmerson	10	2	14	7.0	0	9	1.4
T.J. Williams	9	1	16	16.0	0	16	1.8
C. Grimes	1	1	10	10.0	0	10	10.0
D. Holmes	2	1	6	6.0	0	6	3.0
A. Anderson	1	1	-5	-5.0	0	0	-5.0
MSU	13	232	2842	12.2	21	80	218.6
OPPONENTS	13	246	2856	11.6	22	78	219.7

ALL-PURPOSE YARDS								
PLAYER	G	RUSH	REC.	PR	KOR	IR	TOTAL	YPG
D. Thomas	13	177	1260	18	1135	0	2590	199.2
J. Ringer	13	1447	295	0	0	0	1742	134.0
J. Caulcrick	13	872	36	0	0	0	908	69.8
K. Davis	13	43	513	0	0	0	556	42.8
M. Dell	13	24	220	3	0	0	247	19.0
D. Curry	13	0	200	0	0	0	200	15.4
T. Love	12	0	84	105	0	0	189	15.8
A.J. Jimmerson	10	51	14	0	91	0	156	15.6
A. Hawken	13	2	81	0	66	0	149	11.5
S. Adams	11	0	0	0	32	75	107	9.7
Others/Team	13	-40	139	0	37	156	292	22.5
MSU	13	2576	2842	126	1361	231	7136	548.9
OPPONENTS	13	1636	2856	174	1498	157	6321	486.2

FIELD GOALS							
PLAYER	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	TOTAL	PCT.
B. Swenson	1-1	6-8	5-6	3-5	0-2	15-22	.682
MSU	1-1	6-8	5-6	3-5	0-2	15-22	.682
OPPONENTS	0-0	4-4	4-6	8-9	1-2	17-21	.810

PUNTING							
PLAYER	G	NO.	YDS.	AVG.	LG	I20	BLK
A. Bates	13	69	2742	39.7	67	23	1
Team	13	1	0	0.0	0	0	0
MSU	13	70	2742	39.2	67	23	1
OPPONENTS	13	83	3344	40.3	82	27	0

SCORING									
PLAYER	TD	CONVERSIONS				FG	SAF	DXP	PTS
		RUN	PASS	KICK	REC				
J. Caulcrick	21	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	126
B. Swenson	0	0-0	0-0	53-54	0	15-22	0	0	98
D. Thomas	8	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	48
K. Davis	6	0-0	0-0	0-0	1	0-0	0	0	38
J. Ringer	6	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	36
E. Andino	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	12
M. Dell	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	12
T. Key	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	12
S. Adams	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	6
A. Anderson	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	6
E. Baldwin	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	6
D. Curry	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	6
A. Hawken	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	6
B. Hoyer	1	0-0	1-1	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	6
J. McPherson	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	6
O. Wiley	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	6
MSU	55	0-0	1-1	53-54	1	15-22	0	0	430
OPPONENTS	42	0-0	0-0	41-42	0	17-21	1	0	346

PUNT RETURNS						
PLAYER	G	NO.	YDS.	AVG.	TD	LG
T. Love	12	22	105	4.8	0	18
D. Thomas	13	7	18	2.6	0	18
M. Dell	13	2	3	1.5	0	2
MSU	13	31	126	4.1	0	18
OPPONENTS	13	22	174	7.9	0	29

KICKOFF RETURNS						
PLAYER	G	NO.	YDS.	AVG.	TD	LG
D. Thomas	13	39	1135	29.1	0	79
A.J. Jimmerson	10	5	91	18.2	0	26
A. Hawken	13	5	66	13.2	0	30
S. Adams	11	2	32	16.0	0	16
A. Anderson	1	1	23	23.0	0	23
J. Rouse	13	1	14	14.0	0	14
MSU	13	53	1361	25.7	0	79
OPPONENTS	13	71	1498	21.1	0	63

INTERCEPTION RETURNS						
PLAYER	G	NO.	YDS.	AVG.	TD	LG
O. Wiley	13	4	77	19.2	1	54
S. Adams	11	2	75	37.5	0	38
T. Key	13	2	52	26.0	1	31
E. Gordon	12	1	16	16.0	0	16
C.L. Rucker	8	1	10	10.0	0	7
R. Jenrette	10	1	1	1.0	0	1
T.J. Williams	9	1	0	0.0	0	0
MSU	13	12	231	19.2	2	54
OPPONENTS	13	11	157	14.3	0	53

FUMBLE RETURNS						
PLAYER	G	NO.	YDS.	AVG.	TD	LG
S. Adams	11	1	25	25.0	1	25
T. Key	13	1	20	20.0	1	20
E. Baldwin	13	1	12	12.0	1	12
MSU	13	3	57	19.0	3	25
OPPONENTS	13	1	76	76.0	1	76

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS												
PLAYER	G	SOLO	ASST.	TOTAL	TFL-YDS.	SACKS-YDS.	FF	FR	PBU	BLK		
G. Jones	13	40	38	78	8.5-33	4.5-25	1	0-0	2	0		
K. Davis-Clark	13	44	28	72	5.5-35	4-33	1	0-0	8	0		
T. Key	13	45	24	69	1-1	0-0	2	2-20	6	0		
K. Thornhill	13	28	36	64	10-29	2-11	0	0-0	4	0		
E. Gordon	12	32	30	62	7.5-22	1-8	0	0-0	2	0		
N. Warrick	12	29	32	61	1-1	0-0	0	0-0	3	0		
E. Baldwin	13	27	31	58	18.5-89	8.5-71	0	1-12	0	0		
O. Wiley	13	30	19	49	1-4	0-0	1	0-0	5	0		
S. Adams	11	23	24	47	4.5-30	0-0	0	1-25	1	0		
J. Saint-Dic	11	22	25	47	14.5-85	10-75	8	1-0	1	0		
J. Kershaw	13	16	18	34	5-9	1.5-4	0	1-0	0	1		
O. Nwagbuo	13	12	19	31	4.5-14	1-7	0	1-0	0	0		
C.L. Rucker	8	15	9	24	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	1	0		
J. Misch	12	9	13	22	0.5-1	0.5-1	0	0-0	0	0		
R. Weaver	8	13	6	19	2-3	0-0	0	0-0	1	0		
A. Henderson	13	10	8	18	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	2	0		
B. Long	13	9	9	18	4-19	2-16	1	0-0	0	0		
R. Tabatchnick	7	10	7	17	3-17	1-14	0	0-0	4	0		
R. Jenrette	10	10	5	15	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	1	0		
B. Denson	13	6	4	10	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0		
O. Wilson	13	1	9	10	0.5-1	0-0	0	1-0	2	0		
J. Rouse	13	4	5	9	1.5-5	0-0	0	0-0	0	0		
R. Allison	11	5	3	8	0-0	0-0	2	0-0	0	0		
T.J. Williams	9	6	1	7	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	1	0		
K. Davis	13	2	4	6	2.5-13	2-12	0	0-0	0	0		
A. Jeremiah	5	4	2	6	1-17	1-17	1	0-0	0	0		
Team	13	6	0	6	2-17	1-8	0	0-0	0	0		
T. Boleski	13	2	2	4	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0		
A. Hawken	13	1	2	3	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0		
M. Jordan	6	1	2	3	0.5-0	0-0	0	0-0	1	0		
C. Neely	1	0	3	3	0.5-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0		
B. Hoyer	13	2	0	2	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0		
M. Hyde	10	2	0	2	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0		
D. Pritchett	13	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0		
A. Shackleton	13	2	0	2	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0		
J. Stipek	1	0	2	2	0.5-1	0-0	0	0-0	0	0		
D. Thomas	13	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0		
A. Bates	13	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0		
M. Bell	5	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0		
D. Fortener	12	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0		
R. Graham	1	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0		
J. Johnson	10	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0		
J. Masters	9	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0		
J. McPherson	12	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0		
J. Nantambu	1	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0		
J. Nitchman	10	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0		
J. Ware	1	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0		
B. White	10	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0		
MSU	13	478	425	903	100-446	40-302	17	8-57	45	1		
OPPONENTS	13	520	577	1097	72-293	30-193	8	7-76	38	4		



HEAD COACH MARK DANTONIO



Mark Dantonio, who served as head coach at Cincinnati for three seasons and as an assistant coach at Michigan State for six years, became Michigan State University's 24th head football coach on Nov. 27, 2006.

In his first season as head coach at Michigan State, Dantonio restored the pride and tradition of Spartan football. Under his leadership, the Spartans finished the 2007 regular season with a 7-5 record, securing the program's first bowl bid in four years with a berth against Boston College in the Champs Sports Bowl in Orlando, Fla. Dantonio became just the third first-year coach in Michigan State history to earn a postseason bowl bid, joining Nick Saban (1995 Independence Bowl vs. LSU) and John L. Smith (2003 Alamo Bowl vs. Nebraska).

Michigan State (7-6 overall) produced seven victories despite playing one of the nation's most demanding schedules, as the Spartans' 2007 opponents had a combined record of 75-57 (.568) during the regular season. The Spartans went 4-3 in games played against bowl-bound teams in 2007. Michigan State lost six games by a combined total of 31 points, including two in overtime (Northwestern and Iowa). All six games were decided by seven points or less.

Michigan State finished the year strong, winning its final two games of the regular season for the first time since 1999 with victories at Purdue and over Penn State, both bowl-bound teams. Dantonio became the first coach in Spartan history to begin his initial season 4-0, as Michigan State opened the 2007 campaign with wins over UAB, Bowling Green, Pittsburgh and Notre Dame. With the 31-14 victory over the Irish, the Spartans became the first opponent to win six-straight games in the 77-year history of Notre Dame Stadium.

In 2007, Michigan State featured one of the Big Ten's most prolific offensive attacks. The Spartans ranked second in the conference in scoring offense (33.1 points per game), third in rushing offense (198.2 yards per game) and fourth in total offense (416.8 ypg.). Michigan State also was listed among the NCAA's top 30 in rushing offense (No. 25) and scoring offense (No. 29). The Spartans scored a school single-season record 430 points and produced

top 10 single-season totals in six other offensive categories, including total yards (No. 3: 5,418), first downs (No. 4: 266), passing yards (No. 5: 2,842), total yards per game (No. 6: 416.8) and scoring average (No. 6: 33.1 ppg.).

Michigan State also displayed dramatic improvement on the defensive side of the football in 2007. The Spartans ranked fourth in the Big Ten and No. 30 nationally in rushing defense, allowing just 125.9 ypg. Michigan State held four opponents under 50 yards rushing (UAB, Bowling Green, Indiana and Boston College). After finishing eighth in the Big Ten and No. 88 nationally in total defense in 2006, the Spartans improved to fourth in the league and No. 32 in the NCAA, allowing 345.5 ypg. After finishing near the bottom of the conference in tackles for loss (ninth) and sacks (10th) in 2006, Michigan State vaulted to third in the Big Ten in tackles for loss (7.69 per game) and fourth in sacks (3.08).

From his first day on the job, Coach Dantonio has pledged to support student-athletes as they pursue excellence, both in the classroom and on the playing field. Last fall, eight Spartans earned Academic All-Big Ten honors, including fullback Andrew Hawken and linebacker Kaleb Thornhill, who also were selected to the Academic All-District IV Second Team by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA).

The 52-year old Dantonio established himself as one of the nation's up-and-coming coaches during his three-year tenure at Cincinnati. In 2006, Dantonio led the Bearcats to a 7-5 overall record and a 4-3 BIG EAST mark, making Cincinnati bowl eligible for the second time in three years. Dantonio accomplished the feat against the second-toughest schedule in the country, as UC's opponents compiled a 69-42 record. His Bearcats upset then-No. 7 Rutgers, 30-11, on Nov. 18, marking the Scarlet Knights their first loss of the season and making the highest-ranked opponent ever defeated by UC.

Dantonio compiled an 18-17 overall record in his three years at Cincinnati and led the program in its transition to the BIG EAST Conference. He became the first head coach in 23 years to direct a team to a winning season in his first

year at UC. The Bearcats' went 7-5 in 2004, including a 5-3 mark in Conference USA to finish second in the league standings, and defeated Marshall in the Fort Worth Bowl.

Prior to his appointment at Cincinnati, Dantonio served as the defensive coordinator at Ohio State for three seasons, where his defensive unit became known as one of the stingiest in the country. During the Buckeyes' 2002 National Championship season, OSU ranked second nationally in scoring defense and third in rushing defense, and the following year, his unit ranked No. 1 in the country in rushing defense and ninth in total defense, sparking the Buckeyes to an 11-2 mark and a No. 4 national ranking.

Dantonio is familiar with East Lansing, as he spent six seasons (1995-2000) as Michigan State's secondary coach, including associate head coach duties in 2000. He contributed to Michigan State's successful 1999 season, during which the Spartans went 10-2, won the Florida Citrus Bowl, led the Big Ten in total defense and ranked No. 7 in the final polls.

A Zanesville, Ohio, native with Midwest ties, Dantonio has 25 years of collegiate coaching experience, and has coached in 11 bowl games. He has worked for some of the top coaches in the game, including Nick Saban, Jim Tressel and Earle Bruce.

Dantonio earned three letters as a defensive back for Coach Jim Carlen at South Carolina (1976-78).

Born March 9, 1956, in El Paso, Texas, Mark and his wife Becky have two daughters, Kristen and Lauren.



GEORGE WEBSTER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

April 19, 2008, marks the first anniversary of the passing of former Spartan All-American George Webster. At head coach Mark Dantonio's request, the spring game has provided an opportunity to raise funds for the George Webster Scholarship Fund,

which provides opportunities for at least two former student-athletes to return to Michigan State each year and complete their degrees. Five

former Spartan football players are the 2007-08 scholarship recipients: Dimitry Bernard (1999-2000), Little John Flowers (1998-2001), Craig Jarrett (1998-2001), Richard Newsome (1997-2000) and Jason Randall (2001-04).

For the first time ever, fans had the opportunity to purchase press box seats (priced at \$50 each) for the spring game and enjoy the same view as the media that cover Spartan football. All proceeds from the sale of press box seats will be contributed to the George Webster Scholarship Fund.

Born Nov. 25, 1945, in Anderson, S.C., Webster earned three letters for the Spartans from 1964-66, while playing for legendary head football coach Duffy Daugherty. The two-time consensus All-American and two-time all-conference selection helped Michigan State to a combined record of 19-1-1 in 1965-66 as the Spartans won back-to-back Big Ten Conference and National Championships. At 6-foot-4, 218 pounds, he revolutionized the roverback position with his

size and speed. As a senior, Webster recorded 93 tackles, including 10 for losses, as Michigan State ranked third nationally in rushing defense, allowing just 51.4 yards per game. In 1967, he became just the second former Spartan to have his jersey number (No. 90) retired. Webster was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1987. He has been rated among the 100 Greatest Players of All-Time by CollegeFootballNews.com.

Those interested in contributing to the George Webster Scholarship Fund are encouraged to contact MSU Athletic Development/Ralph Young Fund at (517) 432-4610.

ARTHUR RAY FUNDRAISER

An account has been established at the MSU Federal Credit Union for Michigan State offensive lineman Arthur Ray Jr., who recently left school to address an infection from previous leg surgery. Per NCAA rules, donated dollars must be designated for specific medical purposes (medical bills, purchase of medical equipment, etc.).

Those interested in contributing should send a check payable to "Arthur Ray Fundraiser", c/o MSU Federal Credit Union, 600 East Crescent Road, East Lansing, MI 48823. The MSU Federal Credit Union will accept check-by-phone contributions at 1-800-MSU-4-YOU.